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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Beauty and Everlasting Lord of all, cherry blossoms in Washington are a true sign of the new life of spring. They bring tourists from across the Nation and from around the world to marvel at fragile beauty and seek lasting promise here in the Nation's capital of these United States.

Lord, bless the work of Congress during these days of grace. May the freshness of new ideas and bold undertakings bolster the vigor of the Nation while the hard work of all Americans, the steadfast perseverance of military forces and the stability of family life sustain a climate of creativity and prosperity for all Your people.

While the hidden roots of faith penetrate the landscape upon which we walk and the far reaching branches of charity draw strength from the sky above, it is You who produce blossoms of hope in human hearts, living in an anxious yet cold world, and you do this here, now, and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

LONE STAR VOICE: GARY SPURGER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Gary Spurger of Humble, Texas has written me about unlawful entry into the United States. He says:

"I am writing you as I sit here and listen to the news and watch on TV the protests against immigration policy reform. I am tired of seeing those protesters walking the streets that we taxpayers pay for, using our school buses and resources and then waving Mexican flags and chanting 'Mexico, Mexico.'"

"Please do not be blinded by the protests supporting illegal immigrants. If we don't take care of us then we will not have the ability to help others less fortunate. Allowing illegal immigrants to siphon off resources that they provide no compensation to will in the end be the fall of our society.

"We need to take heed of the lessons of history such as Rome. It fell from the inside by allowing fractured and discordant groups to maintain their own unique identity to the extent that it caused Rome to no longer be Rome but nothing more than a bunch of little other countries. Recent history is teaching us just by looking at France, it is no longer French but so inclusive to the point that France is nothing more than a hodgepodge of other cultures, not French."

Mr. Speaker, people that come to the United States must do so legally and they must expect to assimilate into this country and become Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN AND NUCLEAR WASTE

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, just when I think the Department of Energy couldn't become more incompetent or dangerous, they do something that proves me wrong.

You will find this cartoon character on a taxpayer-funded Web site run by the Department of Energy. His job, Yucca Mountain Johnny, is to convince kids in Nevada that nuclear waste is okay and that the State of Nevada is a safe place to store nuclear waste.

What really bothers me is the message that Yucca Mountain Johnny is giving to our school children. This is akin to Joe Camel telling our school kids that smoking is healthy.

The Department of Energy ought to dump Yucca Johnny and his slanted, one-sided view of how our Nation should address the issue of nuclear waste disposal. We should stop using taxpayers' money to spread this message. It is despicable.

The Las Vegas Sun wrote in an editorial on March 25, "Children don't need a cartoon character to tell them what is easily understood by most people: nuclear waste is dangerous. Don't let anyone bury it in your backyard."

Save the people of the State of Nevada, the school children, and get rid of Yucca Mountain Johnny. It is disgusting.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House of Representatives, we are aware of the awesome power that we have to make laws under which

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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